

## MILLY IN DENVER

Every summer my Mom's friend Milly  
spends two months on the edge of Denver  
in a trailer in her Mom's back yard  
Milly's Mom is ninety-three and mean  
She never stopped telling Milly  
what a homely face she has and,  
even if she is too tall, she could carry herself right  
and quit being jittery  
During a storm last July Milly got nervous  
and her Mom said, "You're so scared of everything,  
the Lord ought to put you out of your misery  
and take you right now."  
Meanwhile, my Mom wakes up and cries  
because her friend's out of town  
and they can't talk on the phone  
for a half hour or have lunch at Sizzler  
I asked Mom how come Milly doesn't stay here  
where she's wanted instead of going back every year  
to a hot trailer and a cruel old lady  
My Mom looks blank, "Why,"  
she says, "it's her Mother."

## MILLY'S MOM

Milly's sisters, Gladys and Thelma,  
say it'll be a scandal when their Mom dies  
cause she bought a plot in a different  
little town twelve miles away just so  
she wouldn't get buried  
beside her husband She always  
hated him, wouldn't let the doctors  
give morphine when he was dying since  
he deserved to suffer What he did so bad  
nobody knows Anyhow, Milly needn't worry  
Her Mom is ninety-four and still  
drives herself to bingo every Tuesday  
where she gets real excited winning boxes  
of kleenex while the girls  
sit home and fret  
what to do about Mama

— Cherry Jean Vasconcellos

Pasadena CA